

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SSC-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 /050 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3239

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4507

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PINT

SUBJECT: NEW CABINET APPOINTMENTS EXPECTED

REF: PRETORIA 4349

1. WEEKEND ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MINISTER OF LABOR, POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS MARAIS VILJOEN WILL LEAVE CABINET TO SUCCEED RETIRING SENATE PRESIDENT JAN DE KLERK MEANS THAT PRIME MINISTER VORSTER NOW HAS AT LEAST TWO CABINET SLOTS TO FILL BEFORE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT IN LATE JANUARY. OTHER VACANT POSITION CREATED BY RELINQUISHMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO BY A H DU PLESSIS IN ORDER TO BECOME LEADER OF WHITE DELEGATION AT SWA CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS(REFTEL). POSSIBILITY OF A THIRD VACANCY MOOTED BY PRESS AS SPECULATION CONTINUES THAT MINISTER OF EDUCATION JOHAN VAN DER SPUY MIGHT STEP DOWN AND ACCEPT APPOINTMENT TO EUROPEAN EMBASSY.

2. PRESS SPECULATING FEVERISHLY ON TOPIC OF WHICH CABINET MEMBERS OR DEPUTY MINISTERS MIGHT BENEFIT POLITICALLY FROM CABINET SHUFFLE. AMONG THOSE CONSIDERED AS PRIME CANDIDATES FOR ADVANCEMENT ARE MINISTER OF SPORT AND MINES PIET KOORNHOF WHO HAS ASSUMED ACTIVE ROLE IN RECENT MINE LABOR DISPUTES AND IS BEING TOUTED BY PRESS AS NATURAL TO STEP

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UP INTO VILJOENS VACANT LABOR CHAIR. KOORNHOF IS ALSO

MENTIONED AS POSSIBILITY TO SUCCEED VAN DER SPUY, SHOULD
THE LATTER RETIRE, AS LEADER OF THE NATIONAL PARTY IN THE
ORANGE FREE STATE. NP IN OFS NOTABLY SHORT OF LEADER-
SHIP TALENT, AND IT NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT TRANSVAAL MP
KOORNHOF COULD BE TAPPED FOR THAT JOB.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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